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37 CFR 1.116 Amendment  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Michael A. Epstein

Serial No.: 08/994,878

Filed: 12/19/97

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN A  
NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT

Atty. Docket No.: PHA 23-313

Group Art Unit: 2131

Examiner: Hosuk Song

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

#24/f  
HN-8  
11-26-02  
NE

Second Amendment/Reply After Final Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the final  
Office Action dated 26 September 2002.

Please amend the claims as follows. Attached is a marked-up copy of the claims,  
showing the changes made.

5. A method for obtaining and using a private key at user equipment via a network, said  
method comprising:

transmitting from the user equipment an ID of a user;

receiving a private key of the user encrypted with a user identifying key  
associated with the user; and

decrypting the encrypted private key using a user identifying key determined from  
interaction with the user at the user equipment;

using the decrypted private key; and

destroying or avoiding making any and all non-volatile records of the private key  
at the location of the user.